

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

PETITION OF JOHNSON COUNTY	)	
GAS INC. FOR A DEVIATION FROM	)	CASE NO. 98-346
807 KAR 5:022, SECTION 13(17)(g)(4)	)	

O R D E R

Johnson County Gas Inc. ("Johnson Gas") has filed a petition with the Commission seeking a deviation from 807 KAR 5:022, Section 13(17)(g)(4). Johnson Gas requested a deviation to allow it to conduct monthly, rather than weekly, samplings of natural gas in its system for proper odorant concentration.

On July 16, 1998, Commission Staff inspected Johnson Gas odorization practices and submitted to the Commission an inspection report dated July 20, 1998. The report is attached as Appendix A to this Order. Both 49 CFR 192.625 and 807 KAR 5:022, Section 13(17)(a) read as follows:

Odorization of gas.

- (a) Combustible gas in a distribution line shall contain a natural odorant or be odorized so that at a concentration in air of one-fifth (1/5) of the lower explosive limit (approximately one (1) percent by volume), gas is readily detectable by a person with a normal sense of smell.

The inspection found that the gas in the Johnson Gas system contains a distinctive natural odor that was readily detectable at 0.60 percent gas-in-air, which is well within the prescribed standards. The staff report found that there would be no increase in danger to the public if the gas in the Johnson Gas system was sampled on a monthly basis.

After considering the evidence of record herein, the Commission finds that:

1. The natural gas in the Johnson Gas system has an acceptable level of odorant pursuant to 807 KAR 5:022, Section 13(17)(a).
2. Johnson Gas's petition for a deviation from 807 KAR 5:022, Section 13(17)(g)(4), to extend the periodic testing for odorant concentration from weekly to monthly should be granted.
3. The Commission may grant a deviation from this regulation pursuant to 807 KAR 5:022, Section 18.

The Commission being otherwise sufficiently advised, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

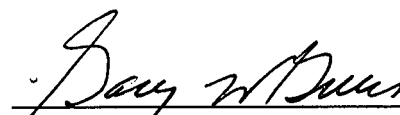
1. Johnson Gas is granted a deviation from 807 KAR 5:022, Section 13(17)(g)(4).
2. Johnson Gas shall test its gas for the proper odorant level at least once each month.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 4th day of August, 1998.

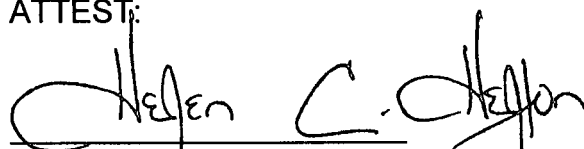
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

## **APPENDIX A**

**AN APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 98-346 DATED AUGUST 4, 1998**

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**CASE-RELATED INSPECTION REPORT IN CASE NUMBER 98-346  
JOHNSON COUNTY GAS COMPANY, INC.  
HAROLD, KENTUCKY**

July 20, 1998

### **BRIEF**

A case related inspection in Case Number 98-346 of the odorant facilities of the Johnson County Gas Company, Inc. ("Johnson County") was conducted on July 16, 1998. This inspection was conducted in accordance with the Public Service Commission's ("PSC") policy of inspecting all jurisdictional gas operators. Natural gas operators are jurisdictional to the PSC under KRS 278.040, 278.495 and also through a 5(a) agreement with the United States Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety, for the enforcement of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968.

### **INSPECTION**

On July 16, 1998, Earl Alderman, Jr. and I conducted tests of the odor levels of the natural gas present in the Johnson County system. Odorant requirements are spelled out in 49 CFR 192.625. A combustible gas in a distribution line must contain a natural odorant or be odorized so that at a concentration in air of one-fifth of the lower explosive limit, the gas is readily detectable by a person with a normal sense of smell.

Johnson County receives its gas from Columbia Gas Transmission ("Columbia") and from the Kentucky-West Virginia Gas Company ("Kentucky-West"). Both of these companies supply Johnson County with natural gas from local production wells. This

gas contains a distinctive natural odor. Mr. Alderman and I conducted odorant tests using a Heath Consultants, Inc. odorator and also a Johnson-Williams odor test device. These tests were made on portions of the system, which were supplied by both Columbia and Kentucky-West.

Test readings found that the gas in the Johnson County system was readily detectable at 0.60 percent gas-in-air, which is well within the prescribed standards.

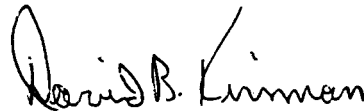
#### FINDINGS

Mr. Bud Rife, Manger of Johnson County, is requesting in Case Number 98-346 to be granted a waiver from 807 KAR 5:022, which requires that odor levels be tested on a weekly basis. Mr. Rife requests that Johnson County be allowed to test the gas on a monthly basis.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The natural gas in this system contains natural odorant that is very distinctive in smell and examinations of the odorant test records indicate that this level of odorant is constant. There would appear to be no increased danger to the public were the gas sampling to be done on a monthly basis, rather than weekly.

Respectfully submitted,

  
David B. Kinman  
Gas Utility Investigator

LLA